

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, June 3, 2005*

## OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE REOPENING OF CAMP BROWN, AS PART OF SUMMER CRIME PREVENTION INITIATIVE

Thanks to more than \$300,000 raised from foundations, corporations and individual donors, a total of 1,000 at-risk DC-area youth will be able to get out of the city this summer to attend the re-opened Camp Ernest W. Brown, a 168-acre Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington (BGCGW) facility located along the Potomac River in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The summer camp program was shuttered last year due to lack of funding and damage caused by Hurricane Isabel. Joined this week by Chief Ramsey and the Freddie Mac Foundation, BGCGW officials said the 2005 summer camp program would be a major part of their participation in the "40 Days of Peace Program" to reduce juvenile violence and crime. Established in 1937, Camp Brown has provided several thousand DC-area youngsters the opportunity to escape the bustle and heat of the city to enjoy a week-long adventure in the countryside. Often, the trip to Camp Brown is the youths' first experience in traveling outside of the immediate DC area. The Camp Brown curriculum covers a variety of topics that promote greater self-awareness, self-esteem, character development and constructive decision-making. Said Chief Ramsey, "Preventing juvenile crime is about much more than enforcing the law. To have a real and lasting impact on the problem, we must reach our young people at an early age and guide them in positive directions. Camp Brown, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington as a whole, are major elements of our strategy to engage young people and reduce crime."

## MPDC JOINS IN REGIONAL PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROGRAM

The MPDC this week joined other regional leaders in launching a comprehensive public education and enforcement campaign to reduce pedestrian deaths and injuries throughout the Washington metropolitan area. The Washington region has seen more than eight pedestrian fatalities in just the last month. In DC alone, 8 of the 20 traffic fatalities in 2005 have involved pedestrians. With the recent spike of pedestrian fatalities and injuries in many of the participating jurisdictions, leaders vowed to work together to heighten awareness of pedestrian safety and to crack down on traffic violations in areas with high numbers of pedestrian incidents. Under the sponsorship of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the "Street Smart" outreach campaign is aimed at drivers, walkers and cyclists. The Street Smart pedestrian safety effort focuses on the "three Es": education; engineering; and enforcement. The education component includes information about devices designed to enhance pedestrian safety, such as pedestrian warning signs and reflective materials for nighttime safety. A stepped-up, region-wide enforcement initiative complements the education/awareness blitz. Engineering initiatives include improved sightlines, signals and markings, and the use of technology, such as "runway" lighting for crosswalks.

- ① For more information, visit:  
<http://app.mpd.cdc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3212>
- ① The week-long Camp Brown experience starts on July 11, and slots are still open to qualifying youths. The cost for children to participate in Camp Brown is \$100, with discounts available for families with more than one attending child and scholarships available for children unable to pay. For more information about attending Camp Brown, contact (202) 397-CLUB.
- ① On June 24, 2005, the Chief's Citizens Advisory Council and the Joseph K. Smith Memorial Summer Camp Fund will be hosting a fundraiser to benefit Camp Brown. Proceeds from the event, to be held at the Washington Navy Yard, will be used to send youth to camp and construct additional cabins. Tickets are \$40 each. For details, contact George Fenderson, Chair, on 291-6727, Stanley Mayes, on 773-3217, or Rev. Thomas Alston, on 584-4431.
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- ① Read the news release at:  
<http://app.mpd.cdc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3208>
- ① For more information about Street Smart, including copies of educational posters and handouts, visit:  
[www.mwcog.org/transportation/streetsmart](http://www.mwcog.org/transportation/streetsmart)
- ① For information about bicycle and pedestrian programs in DC, go to:  
<http://ddot.dc.gov/ddot/cwp/view,a,1245,q,559639,ddotNav,132399.aspx>

## CRIME IN DC DOWN 15 PERCENT DURING MAY

The number of serious crimes reported in DC declined by more than 15 percent in May, according to preliminary statistics from the MPDC, with reductions in every crime category except for robbery and arson. Compared with May 2004, violent crime was down 13 percent last month, with citywide reductions in homicide (-43%), sexual assault (-48%) and assault with a deadly weapon (-25%). The number of reported robbery offenses did increase 9 percent in May. Among property crimes last month, burglary (-13%), theft (-4%), theft from auto (-19%) and auto theft (-27%) all declined, while arson was unchanged. All seven police districts recorded decreases in crime during May, according to the preliminary statistics. For the first five months of the year, reported serious crime was down just over 14 percent when comparing preliminary data for January-May 2005 and figures for the same time period of 2004. During this period, violent crime in DC was down 9 percent (including an 18 percent reduction in homicide), and property crime had declined by 16 percent (including a 30 percent drop in stolen autos). All seven police districts have recorded reductions in crime so far this year.

## CHIEF TESTIFIES IN SUPPORT OF OMNIBUS PUBLIC SAFETY ACT

In testimony this past week before the DC Council's Committee on the Judiciary, Chief Ramsey outlined how the Omnibus Public Safety Act of 2005, proposed by Mayor Williams, would help the MPDC drive down DC's crime rate even further. The legislation includes 22 titles aimed at addressing violent crime, safeguarding children and senior citizens, and protecting the privacy of DC residents. Ramsey said the law would help the MPDC in five key areas: (1) gun violence, by creating mandatory minimum sentences for felons found in possession of any firearm; (2) juvenile crime – both victimization and offending – by, among other things, creating the new offenses of “contributing to the delinquency of a minor” and gang recruitment and by holding accountable juveniles who fail to appear in court; (3) protection of senior citizens and domestic violence victims, by enhancing penalties and offering other safeguards; (4) quality-of-life concerns, by allowing for the creation of Prostitution Free Zones and making it easier to charge trespassers in abandoned buildings; and (5) officer safety, by outlawing armor-piercing ammunition and clarifying the crime of assault on a police officer. “The Omnibus Public Safety Act of 2005 provides the MPDC with important new tools to fight crime and protect the vulnerable,” Ramsey told the Committee. “And I firmly believe that enactment of the law will help the District build upon the public safety gains of the last few years.”

## NEWS & NOTES

**Testing of New Automated Traffic Enforcement Cameras.** Motorists are advised that the MPDC has begun final testing of five new stationary photo radar speeding reduction cameras and one new red-light camera that will be activated later this year. Testing will take place in two-hour intervals at various times of the day, including daytime and nighttime hours. Because the camera flash units will be turned on, motorists may notice a flash when they drive by the cameras during testing. However, no notices—either warnings or actual tickets—will be generated during this testing period. Details at <http://app.mpdc.dc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3210>.

**Department Welcomes 23 New Officers.** Chief Ramsey administered the oath of office Friday afternoon to the 23 newest members of the MPDC. The new officers are all being assigned to neighborhood patrols in Police Service Areas throughout the District.

**Civilian Career Opportunities in the MPDC.** The Department is currently recruiting for a number of civilian positions in the agency, including a capital projects specialist, a fleet maintenance and repair supervisor, and a writer in the Directive Development section. Details on the positions are at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,538142.asp>.

① View the latest preliminary crime statistics for each of the seven police districts, as well as DC as a whole, at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543329.asp>

① For tips on guarding against robbery and other street crimes, go to:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547781,mpdcNav\\_GID,1551.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547781,mpdcNav_GID,1551.asp)

① Read the Chief's complete statement at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1247,q,557133,mpdcNav\\_GID,1543.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1247,q,557133,mpdcNav_GID,1543.asp)

### DATA BOX

<b>Homicides</b>	<b>as of 6/3/05</b>
◆ 2005: 67	
◆ 2004: 82	
◆ % Change: -18.3%	
◆ Closure Rate: 55.2% (37 closures)	
<b>Adult Arrests</b>	<b>week end. 5/28/05</b>
◆ Total: 907	
◆ Drugs: 155	
◆ Weapons: 21	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 20	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 28	
<b>Juvenile Activity</b>	<b>week end. 5/28/05</b>
◆ Arrests: 62	
◆ Curfew Violations: 74	
◆ Truants: 52	
<b>Firearm Recoveries</b>	<b>as of 5/25/05</b>
◆ May: 202	
◆ 2005 Total: 1,075	
<b>Traffic Fatalities</b>	<b>as of 6/3/05</b>
◆ 2005: 20	
◆ 2004: 25	
◆ % Change: -20.0%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**